

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 7 to 10 and 24 to 28 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, amend Claims 1 to 6 and 22 to 23, and add new Claims 29 and 30 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A controller which can communicate with a plurality of image forming apparatuses for executing a job and transmit to one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses data for performing calibration of the image forming apparatus, comprising:

a memory unit adapted to store information showing that the calibration of one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses is being executed; and

a job managing unit adapted to assign to another of the plurality of image forming apparatuses a job assigned to the one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses, in the event that the information is stored by said memory unit even if the one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses is ready to accept a job whose calibration is being executed to another of the plurality of image forming apparatuses.

2. (Currently amended) A controller according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of image forming apparatuses is a printer, and said job managing unit assigns to another of the plurality of printers a job for instructing to print which was assigned to one of the plurality of printers which corresponds to the stored information whose calibration is being executed to another of the plurality of printers.

3. (Currently amended) A controller according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of image forming apparatuses is a copier having a function for reading an image, and said job managing unit assigns to another of the plurality of copiers a job for instructing to print and a job for instructing to read the image which were assigned to one of the plurality of copiers which corresponds to the stored information whose calibration is being executed to another of the plurality of copiers.

4. (Previously presented) A controller according to claim 1, wherein the calibration is a process for stabilizing an output density fluctuation due to a difference among the plurality of image forming apparatuses or due to an environmental change in temperature or humidity.

5. (Previously presented) A controller according to claim 1, further comprising a control unit adapted to output print data for performing the calibration of the image forming apparatus to the image forming apparatus, calculate calibration data from a measurement result of a printed matter, and output print data indicative of the calculated calibration data to the image forming apparatus.

6. (Currently amended) A controller according to claim 1, wherein said memory unit stores a job and an identifier indicative of the image forming apparatus to which said the job has been assigned so as to correspond to each other, and

wherein said job managing unit changes the identifier corresponding to the job assigned to the one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses apparatus whose calibration is being executed to an identifier of another of the plurality of image forming apparatuses apparatus.

7. to 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A method of controlling calibration of an image forming apparatus, comprising the steps of:

storing information showing that the calibration of one of a plurality of image forming apparatuses is being executed; and
assigning to another of the plurality of image forming apparatuses a job assigned to the one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses, in the event that the information is stored by said memory unit even if the one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses is ready to accept a job whose calibration is being executed to another of the plurality of image forming apparatuses.

12. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein when each of the plurality of image forming apparatuses is a printer, a job for instructing to print which was assigned to one of the plurality of printers which corresponds to the stored information whose calibration is being executed is assigned to another of the plurality of printers.

13. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein when each of the plurality of image forming apparatuses is a copier having a function for reading an image, a job for instructing to print and a job for instructing to read the image which were assigned to one of the plurality of copiers which corresponds to the stored information whose calibration is being executed are assigned to another of the plurality of copiers.

14. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 11, whercin the calibration is a process for stabilizing an output density fluctuation due to a difference among the plurality of image forming apparatuses or due to an environmental change in temperature or humidity.

15. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 11, further comprising a control step of outputting print data for performing the calibration of the image forming apparatus to the image forming apparatus, calculating calibration data from a measurement result of a printed matter, and outputting print data indicative of the calculated calibration data to the image forming apparatus.

16. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 11, further comprising the steps of:
storing a job and an identifier indicative of the image forming apparatus to which the job has been assigned so as to correspond to each other, and

changing the identifier corresponding to the job assigned to the one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses apparatus whose calibration is being executed to an identifier of another of the plurality of image forming apparatuses apparatus.

17. (Currently amended) A program stored on a computer-readable storage medium such that, when executed by a computer, the program causes the computer to execute a method for controlling calibration of an image forming apparatus, the method comprising:

a memory step of storing information showing that the calibration of one of a plurality of image forming apparatuses is being executed; and

a job managing step of assigning to another of the plurality of image forming apparatuses a job assigned to the one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses, in the event that the information is stored in said memory step even if the one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses is ready to accept a job whose calibration is being executed to another of the plurality of image forming apparatuses.

18. (Currently amended) A program according to claim 17, wherein each of the plurality of image forming apparatuses is a printer, and in said job managing step, a job for instructing to print which was assigned to one of the plurality of printers which corresponds to the stored information whose calibration is being executed is assigned to another of the plurality of printers.

19. (Currently amended) A program according to claim 17, wherein each of the plurality of image forming apparatuses is a copier having a function for reading an image, and in said job managing step, a job for instructing to print and a job for instructing to read the image which were assigned to one of the plurality of copiers which corresponds to the stored information whose calibration is being executed are assigned to another of the plurality of copiers.

20. (Previously presented) A program according to claim 17, wherein the calibration is a process for stabilizing an output density fluctuation due to a difference among the plurality of image forming apparatuses or due to an environmental change in temperature or humidity.

21. (Previously presented) A program according to claim 17, wherein the method further comprises:

an output step of outputting print data for performing the calibration of the image forming apparatus to the image forming apparatus;

a calculating step of calculating calibration data from a measurement result of a printed matter; and

a control step of outputting print data indicative of the calculated calibration data to the image forming apparatus.

22. (Currently amended) A program according to claim 17, wherein
in said storing step, a job and an identifier indicative of the image forming
apparatus to which said the job has been assigned are stored so as to correspond to each
other, and

in said job managing step, the identifier corresponding to the job assigned to
the one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses apparatus whose calibration is being
executed is changed to an identifier of another of the plurality of image forming
apparatuses apparatus.

23. (Currently amended) A memory medium which stores a program stored
on a computer-readable storage medium such that, when executed by a computer, the
program causes the computer to execute a program for controlling calibration of an image
forming apparatus, wherein said program comprises:

a memory step of storing information showing that the calibration of one of
a plurality of image forming apparatuses is being executed; and

a job managing step of assigning to another of the plurality of image
forming apparatuses a job assigned to the one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses
whose calibration is being executed to another of the plurality of image forming
apparatuses, in the event that the information is stored in said memory step even if the one
of the plurality of image forming apparatuses is ready to accept a job.

24. to 28. (Canceled)

29. (New) A controller which can communicate with a plurality of image forming apparatuses for executing a job and transmit to one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses data for performing calibration of the image forming apparatus, comprising:

a memory unit adapted to store information showing that the calibration of one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses is being executed; and

a job managing unit adapted to assign a job to another of the plurality of image forming apparatuses without assigning the job to the one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses, in the event that the information is stored by said memory unit even if the one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses is ready to accept a job.

30. (New) A method of controlling calibration of an image forming apparatus, comprising the steps of:

storing information showing that the calibration of one of a plurality of image forming apparatuses is being executed; and

assigning a job to another of the plurality of image forming apparatuses without assigning the job to the one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses, in the event that the information is stored in said storing step even if the one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses is ready to accept a job.